

The Times Dispatch

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FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 1914.

JUSTIFIED ONLY BY NECESSITY.

This is no time for quibbling. Whether we like them or not, we must accept the military laws of Congress and make the best of them until we have a breathing spell and can safely abandon them.

It is only on this count that the volunteer militia will be mustered yesterday cannot be justified. Mexican sections of the bill are admirable and some of them will doubtless pass with little difficulty. These are the two horns of the dilemma, one of which he must seize and seize quickly. And Carranza hesitates.

Early statements by the "chief" of the revolutionists made for pessimism.

It seemed, from a reading of his letter to President Wilson, that he had decided to unite with his enemy, Huerta, unless this government withdrew its forces from Mexican soil. That being manifestly out of the question, it appeared certain that unless he changed his mind war between the United States and Mexico must follow our efforts to starve Huerta out. General Villa, with much talk of obedience and subordination to his chief, snarled into the breach and, giving evidence of a wider vision, or a more wily cunning, partially offset Carranza's statements with words of friendship and emphatic declaration of a desire for peace. On the heels of this came conciliatory words from Carranza, who protests that he did not mean what he said. Followed then conferences between the various States, prior to the time the entire organized militia of the States shall have been called out. Such authority would not normally have to be exercised as long as the Governors of the States are in sympathy with the administration and will furnish troops equipped in conformity with the Federal regulations. But where a Governor is hostile to the administration as is Governor Diaz, it will now be within the power of the President to call out volunteers and to ignore the Federal Guard or the State militia not a part of the national guard. States also, there would have been another buffer from such a law as this, but that buffer is now obliterated and need not be reckoned.

Far more objectionable, however, is the stipulation that the volunteers so received shall at once be regimented, reorganized and State lined. In other words, the volunteers will cease to be the representatives of the States from which they come, and will be organized as United States Volunteers, Seventeenth or Eighty-first Regiments, or whatever the numbers may be. To my mind this means the loss of one of our finest assets in time of war—that the rebels, raving in fury during the course of a dozen States, during this War between the States, our enemies will remember, the rebellion never. But their State names they might be and often were combined into brigades representing two or even three states, but the Fifteenth Missouri, the First North Carolina and the like they remained. President Davis, as unimpassioned correspondence shows, was so firmly a believer in this policy that he directed the reorganization of the corps as far as practicable into brigades, all of which should be composed of men from the same State. Carranza and his friends, who have written the rebels' policy into our law, have not without reason, but they have certainly sacrificed one of the most inspiring features of our service.

A still greater objection to the bill is based on the point that the success of our volunteers should be based on the judgment and not by the Governors of the states. We are fully conscious of the absurdity to which the old law led, and we are not unmindful of the fact that politics has sometimes placed too many in the choice of our most ardent officers. Still we must concede something to the wisdom of the men who framed the constitution and we must admit that the whole system is in the right, even though it is often violated during the War Between the States.

It is perfectly obvious that the Constitution and our national defense are maintained by the Presidents. Congress has failed to do its work to make our national defense up to date rules for the protection of the land and naval forces, failing to provide for coast defense, the building up of the navy, and failing to provide for the defense of the country.

The Times-Dispatch has no way of ascertaining just now the merits of the possible controversy between the board and the book publishers. It is possible that the higher prices demanded are justified. Yet those who are familiar with past prices and with the conditions of the publishing business do not think so, and are confident that they can make a better bargain for the State without working injustice to the book companies. In the circumstances there can be nothing but commendation for the action of the board in delaying a final adoption. No contract should be signed until the board is convinced that the lowest price consistent with a reasonable profit has been guaranteed.

Mayte Carranza is angry because we took Vera Cruz before he could get to it.

CARRANZA DALLIES WITH OPPORTUNITY.

Huerta has lost his chance to save his country from continued anarchy and misery. That chance, placed in the hands of General Carranza, is fast slipping through the fingers of the dignified old gentleman's hands.

Face to face with the greatest opportunity for service to his people vouchsafed a Mexican leader in a generation, Carranza gives ear to the whisperings of the same Büro-patriotism, which afflicts a few people in this country. Offered the assistance of a friendly foreign nation in the great task of restoring order to his disturbed country, he hesitates on the brink of anarchy and contemplates casting his influence into the pit. Peace and order with foreign aid against contained revolution and gradual drainage of the nation's strength in a united struggle against the pacemakers. These are the two horns of the dilemma, one of which he must seize and seize quickly. And Carranza hesitates.

The New York World seems to us to have stated the case with rare judgment when it says what will be the result if every city emulates Baltimore in disputing the action of the reserve committee. Where will the be and how can harmony ever be restored if every loser at once rejects the action of the judges and promises to fight to the finish?

THE SENATE CAN HELP.

Two features of yesterday's war news, though probably exciting only passing attention, are highly significant. Of the mass of European newspaper comment upon the Mexican trouble little if it can be called friendly to this country. The nation selected to set for the United States in Mexico, in the absence of our own representatives, is a South American country. The connection, while not obvious, exists nevertheless.

The choice of Brazil to act for this country induces the thought that the United States is preparing the way for a new Pan-American understanding. The unfriendly nature of much of the European comment suggests a cause and a reason for it.

There is no use in attempting to blink the fact, nor is there any need at this time to seek the cause. The fact remains that among the nations of Europe, the United States is not popular. Even Great Britain, our mother country and our blood-bond, is not warmly friendly. Some of them, notably Germany, are almost openly hostile. On this hemisphere fear of aggression on the part of the United States and growing irritation at an attitude of fatherly protection do not make for friendly feeling on the part of those Spanish-American nations which are rapidly growing in wealth and power, and which are going through the stage which in thirtyish years we call "feeling their oats." The repeal of the obnoxious and indefensible Panama tolls exemption provision is a part of President Wilson's plan to remove European prejudice and distaste. The proposed Colombian treaty is in line with a similar policy applied to American nations.

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"A general's place is in the rear," And yet they say Carranza knows nothing of military tactics.

What could stir the soul more than the prospect of Col. Please, Colonel Collier and White Heart leading regiments to the front? That is, if there really were a prospect of it.

Huerta says he will have soldiers in the field in a few weeks. See, for double cant account for that.

And the Colonel must be satisfied with killing no octogenarian violent.

Some newspapers are acting as if they thought they could make war by uttering that it is war, and are glad of it because Mr. Bryan doesn't want it.

The American Economist lauds the New York American for its part in the effort to violate a treaty that an indirect subsidy may be imposed by those who lack the moral courage to refuse a direct subsidy. Being the organ of the Muñoz protectionists, the Economist naturally gets its tongue to the basted side of its bread.

Peterson nations laught at President Wilson's warning to Americans to leave Mexico and demanded intervention for the protection of oil companies. Intervention has come, and instead of being perfectly satisfied the same foreign governments are ordering their oilmen out of Mexico. If intervention was a sure protection to foreigners, and that name of consistency, should it not be to terror at the first intimation of intervention?

Col. Please uses a newspaper to show, among that his reputation has been injured. If his cause be just, why will he now say that the impossible cannot be accomplished?

It may be that a rolling stone gathers no moss, but your moss covered stones build no buildings.

As we understand those critics who say that his "watchful waiting" has brought war, we would not have been compelled to intervene had we intervened at first.

No one can expect O'Shaughnessy to be greatly disturbed over the turn of events. He gets a vacation.

Bourke Cockran favors exemption of tolls. The case is complete, gentle- men.

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READY FOR BALTIMORE.

Our good Baltimore friends may be sure that when they come to present their argument for a review of the sites selected for the regional banks, Richmond's committee will be there, not only to defend our case, but to lay before the Federal Reserve Board some of the amazing errors that occur in Baltimore's attacks on this city.

Upon this action, as recommended by The Times-Dispatch, the local committee has rightly determined.

They are reasonable men accustomed to give and take in business, but like every one else in this part of the Fifth Reserve District, they feel that Baltimore has shown itself so ungenerous a rival that we must in self-defense correct the misstatements emanating from the Maryland city. That our local committee will continue the Reserve Board that the organization committee acted wisely goes without saying; the only regret is that Baltimore should try to force a review by partial and misleading statistics.

Orange C. Hu, Va., April 23, 1914.

"Mississippi."

"I have received the set of collar wreaths, cuffs, etc., which you have forwarded for me. They are beautifully executed and I am only too grateful for your kindness and the pains and labor they have cost.

For the safety of your home in Richmond you are invited to a merciful Providence and the brave Army of Northern Virginia, which alone are entitled to the welfare and happiness of our country.

I am with great respect and gratitude,

"Your obedient servant,

"R. E. Lee."

"To Misses Rachael, Rebecca and Emma Simon, Richmond, Va."

"Is Queen Victoria Cruz."

The Liverpool Mercury, a copy of which you just received through the blockade ships, has been recently published in the Colonial Journals, which seem to have the advantage over official sources of being more frank and less biased.

General Huerta has long been seriously considering the advisability of entering literary fields and has finally decided to do so, and has come up to date.

If this proves to be true it will go far to confirm and make positive the reports that have sometimes been made in certain quarters of the mortal alteration of mind of the Queen.

General Huerta Promoted.

Brigadier-general R. E. Hu, whose brilliant assault upon and capture of the town of N. A. and of the Yankee force there, our leaders are now familiar with, was on yesterday made a major-general by order of President Wilson. This is a well-deserved promotion. General Huerta is a North Carolinian.

Note Signers Leave To-Morrow.

In view of the fact that the signs in the Treasury Department to the man treasury at Columbia, S. C., where they will be more convenient to the work of clearing up the messes made by the \$5000000 loan from the press, a special train will leave the Petersburg depot at 10 o'clock to-morrow morning to take them hence. Over 150 have been transferred.

BOSTON & **YORKTOWN.**

Conflicting reports and rumors are coming from the capital and the reports, however, agree that the Yankees are very busy at Yorktown, but just what they are up to it is hard to tell. The 15th Mass. and 1st Mass. regiments are coming in to reinforce the 5th, 10th and 12th Mass. regiments. Some others say the troops already there are embarking for transfer to some other point.

DAMAGE TO COMMERCE.

A report has been made to the Congress of the United States of the Yanks' raid on Mexico, which have been captured and destroyed. The reports date up to January 20 last, and the list of the ships is given in alphabetical order, together with estimates of their value and the number of sailors and officers lost.

This report has gone to record and while it is quite certain that it is not a complete report, it shows that Confederate traders have been doing business with Mexico, and that the Yanks' raid on Mexico has been a serious blow to the trade.

General Huerta has given as his

excuse for the raiding that he

was compelled to do it to protect

his country from the Yanks.

TIME PRESENTATION.

The Indiana Department of Education, of whom will leave to represent for Columbus, S. C., yesterday presented a bands and a color guard to the members of the delegation.

The presentation took place in the Capitol Square, when the general sat at the table, with Captain T. H. Heath presiding.

It is strange that some of our own people, and especially those who have been capturing our government to join with the most hostile and ignorant of the European powers, should be so anxious to do this.

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